



**Arkansas
Department of
Human Services**

**Arkansas Early Childhood Comprehensive
Systems Initiative (AECCS)**



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

Health

Keeping Your Hometown Healthy

**“Building Bridges----
From Birth To School”**



Parent Education Work Group

Parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers. In this country, we have extensive training programs for every profession. Yet, when it comes to our most valuable resource – our children – we require no specific training or experience. Families today are mobile and often do not live close to familial support systems that used to provide information and support. Parent education can provide the support and information that will enable parents to increase their skills and success in childrearing.

Purpose:

The Parent Education Work Group is concerned with developing a comprehensive plan that will combine peer support, information, and opportunities for increasing parental skills, making these readily available to all parents. They seek to enhance parent education capacity by linking with other AECCS components, such as social-emotional health, early care and education, health care, and the family supports that all children and families need.

Membership:

The Parent Education Work Group brings together child care professionals, perinatal and pediatric providers, higher education, early intervention, community health centers, health department, family representatives (parents, grandparents), local business employers, the faith community, statewide media, government agency staff and advocacy organizations.

Key Work Group Objectives:

- Increase public awareness, engaging all public media resources in order to promote the value of parenting education for all parents.
- Expand the accessibility of parenting education services at the local neighborhood level.
- Develop plans to integrate other family support services that will address the family’s economic and social-emotional well-being.
- Encourage and support family friendly policies in private industry and government agencies.
- Collaborate with organizations and programs that are currently administering programs to large numbers of families with young children (such as WIC, child care providers and pediatric providers).

For More information contact co-chairs Barbara Gilkey gilkeybj@archildrens.org or Carolene Thornton cthorno@jtlshop.jonesnet.org or Martha Reeder, Project Director (DHS/DCCECE) martha.reeder@arkansas.gov (501-683-4601).
